



# Customer Focus on Loss Control

Innovative Safety and Health Solutions<sup>SM</sup>

---

## OSHA and Asbestos In The Garage

OSHA has issued regulations for controls and work practices for brake and clutch repair and service. During brake and clutch inspection, disassembly, and repair and assembly operations, employers shall institute controls and work practices to reduce employee exposure to materials containing asbestos, using a negative pressure enclosure/HEPA vacuum system method or low pressure/wet cleaning method.

### Wet Method

For facilities in which no more than five pair of brakes or five clutches are inspected, disassembled, repaired or assembled per week, the *wet method* may be used. The *wet method* consists of the following steps:

- A spray bottle, hose nozzle, or other implement capable of delivering a fine mist of water at low pressure, shall be used to first thoroughly wet the brake and clutch parts. Brake and clutch components shall then be wiped clean with a cloth.
- Place the cloth in an impermeable container labeled:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DANGER</b> <b>Contains Asbestos Fibers</b> <b>Avoid Creating Dust</b> <b>Cancer And Lung Disease</b> <b>Hazard</b></p>
--

- Dispose of the container using established EPA/State methods, including prescribed documentation, using licensed regulated waste transporters and an EPA/State approved disposal facility.

### HEPA Method

When using the *HEPA method* for more frequent work on brakes and clutches, enclose the operation to cover and contain the clutch or brake assembly and to prevent the release of asbestos fibers into workers' breathing zones.

- Seal the enclosure tightly and inspect it thoroughly leaks before beginning work on the assembly.
- Use an enclosure through which the worker can clearly see the operation, and which has impermeable sleeves through which the worker can handle the operation. Verify the integrity of the sleeves and ports before work begins.
- Use a HEPA-filtered vacuum to maintain the enclosure under negative pressure throughout the operation.
- Use the HEPA vacuum to loosen the asbestos residue and then to evacuate the material from the enclosure.
- When the vacuum's filter is full, wet it with a fine mist of water, place it in an impermeable container, and label and dispose of it according to regulations.

### Low Pressure/Wet Cleaning Method

- Place a catch basin under the assembly.
- To suppress the brake dust and prevent it from becoming airborne:
  - Use water containing an organic solvent or wetting agent to gently flood the assembly.
  - Thoroughly wet the brake drum, wheel hub, brake assembly and all brake component parts.
- Dispose of the aqueous solution properly.

